Info-Arts NB

New Brunswick
Arts Board

Volume 1, Issue 3
February 2002

Atlantic Cultural Space Conference

In May 2002 the New Brunswick Arts Board and the Université de Moncton will host a major conference on the arts and heritage. The central objectives of the conference are: to foster a bold and innovative image for arts and heritage sectors in New Brunswick and Atlantic Canada; to promote Atlantic regional cooperation in the cultural sector; to foster specific strategic directions for arts and heritage in Atlantic Canada's regional economic development, cultural infrastructure, cultural philanthropy; to develop Atlantic cultural networks for artists, heritage workers, arts presenters, philanthropists and sponsors and to establish international links for cultural exchange and marketing.

The Director of the conference, Dr. Mark Kristmanson, indicates that the event will host approximately 200 artists, heritage workers, academics and officials from the four Atlantic Provinces, Quebec and Central Canada, New England and other countries including Iceland, Ireland, Great Britain and France. He says the conference comprises about sixty individual presentations, and through the "E-Lounge" program an additional 30 to 40 artists and discussants will participate from points around the Atlantic perimeter. The New Brunswick Arts Board's key partners in this initiative are the Province of New Brunswick, the Atlantic Arts Councils, the Université de Moncton, the Department of Canadian Heritage, Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Canada Council for the Arts, the City of Moncton and the town of Sackville.

Dr. Kristmanson says that the Atlantic Cultural Space Conference : New Directions in Heritage and the Arts marks a pivotal point in strengthening regional cooperation in the arts and heritage.

Event Components of the Conference

In addition to workshops and plenaries, the conference will be the opportunity for meetings between Atlantic Arts Councils and Ministers to develop regional cooperation in the arts, and gathering events such as: a *Cultural Career Celebration* where students and aspiring cultural professionals from Atlantic Canada will learn about cultural sector careers through contacts with the national training schools, universities, federal, provincial and municipal cultural agencies, and other employers; a *Philanthropy Symposium* where foundations, fundraising firms, government agencies and arts organizations will discuss private philanthropy and its relationship to 'capacity-building' in the arts and heritage sectors; an *E-Lounge* where artists from all horizons will participate in large-screen interactions with cutting edge web-design, web-generated audio and visual art proceses, panel discussions and artists's talks; an *Heritage Places Initiative*

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Conference Schedule Overview and Themes

Thursday - May 23
Arts Councils/Ministers meetings
Heritage Places Workshop
Philanthropy Symposium
Opening Ceremony

Friday - May 24
Conference Day 1
Cultural Careers Celebration
Official Conference Banquet

Saturday - May 25
Conference Day 2
Contact Room
Capitol Theatre Gala

Sunday - May 26
Closing Plenary
Press Conference

The themes that will be discussed in the different workshops are defined as follows:

Strategic directions for performing, visual arts, media arts and arts presentation;

Making Connections;

Making Policy;

Education and Human Resources;

Cultural Places / Spaces;

New Technologies;

Economic Development and

Arts Philanthropy.

Points of interest:

October 1st and November 1st, 2001 Arts Grants

Atlantic Cultural Space Conference

Excellence Awards

Nel Oudemans Scholarship Fund

2002
Atlantic Cultural Space Conference
May 23 thru 26
Faculty of Arts & Science
Université de Moncton
Moncton, NB

To Register:

ONLINE: http://www.artsnb.ca

and

BY MAIL: 634 Queen Street, Suite 300, Fredericton, NB E3B 1C2

Registration fees include:
Conference kit
Banquet and Reception
Cultural Careers Celebration
E-Lounge Access
Breaks and Lunches
Architectural Workshop
Capitol Theatre Gala

Contact information:
Mrs. Sylvia Priestley-Brown
Coordinator
506-460-5885
866-460-2787 from within NB only
or
coordinator@artsnb.ca

Atlantic Cultural Space Conference Expected Results

The steering committee anticipates that the conference will help to generate new dynamic between representatives of the arts and the heritage communities. Some specific areas to be addressed are :

1) **Regional cooperation**: To develop a Memorandum of Understanding on regional cooperation in the arts to be signed by the four Atlantic Ministers responsible for culture;

2) **Youth**: A Cultural Career Fair that will bring together 400-500 students and culture sector workers to learn about the potential of cultural careers;

3) **New Technology**: A cutting-edge "E-Lounge" program featuring large-screen interactive interventions by new media artists to pioneer a new development in diffusing media arts;

4) **Cultural Diversity and International Cultural Relations**: Enhanced Atlantic cooperation for francophone arts and heritage sectors, lay groundwork for an Atlantic Aboriginal Arts Network to include a website and talent directory,

promote new vectors of Atlantic Canadian cultural export marketing and international exchanges;

5)**Infrastructure Development**: The development of specific renewal strategies that combine arts and heritage in projects scaled to Atlantic Canadian realities;

6)**Philanthropy and Culture**: To sensitize the donor community to capacity-building and sustainability strategies for arts and heritage organizations; to sensitize arts and heritage organisations to donor perspectives;

7)**Marketing:** To identify new strategies for developing internal and external markets for Atlantic Canadian cultural products;

8) **Arts and Heritage**: To establish specific strategies and visoning for strategic cooperation between arts and heritage sectors.

Staffing the New Brunswick Arts Board booth at the East Coast Music Awards February 1st and 2nd, Conference Coordinator Sylvia Priestley-Brown gives delegates information about the upcoming Atlantic Cultural Space: New Directions in Heritage and the Arts.

It's all part of the conference but WHAT IS...

Cultural Spaces Open Workshop?

The purpose of this event, developed in partnership with the Canadian Centre for Architecture, is to help foster an innovative Atlantic Canadian architectural vision for community-based cultural infrastructure renewal projects. This reflects one of the conference's strategic goals, to help strengthen cultural infrastructure in the region in conjunction with a new federal funding program now offering matching funds for this purpose. It also reflects a basic intuition that "architecture defines behaviour", and that rethinking our approach to cultural facilities must form part of any strategic direction for arts and heritage in Atlantic Canada. The Open Worshop will demonstrate how the arts and built heritage can be combined in cultural facilities whose design inspires new ideas, high standards and community pride.

Cultural Careers Celebration?

On May 24th, students and aspiring cultural professionals from Atlantic Canada will have the opportunity to learn about careers in the cultural sector through contacts with the national training schools, the universities, federal, provincial and municipal cultural agencies, and other employers in the arts and culture field. This one day event is organized in partnership with the Cultural Human Resources Council. It will include a contact room with kiosks, scheduled presentations by exhibitors, panel discussions and workshops, demonstrations by artists and art groups from a variety of art forms and the E-Lounge, a digital large-screen event involving artists from around the Atlantic arena trough web-cams and interactive sites.

E-Lounge?

From the 23 to the 25 of May 2002 conference and career celebration participants can drop into the E-Lounge for an on-going, on-line interactive forum. The E-Lounge explores an exciting strategic direction in Atlantic cultural development by engaging with technology as a problematic of cultural evolution. It will showcase recent cutting edge-web work produced by new media artists in the Atlantic region as well as an international program of works generated specifically for the web, digitized web works, audi-scapes, interactive web-generated works, and web interventions from France, Iceland, Cuba and various locations in Canada.

Philanthropy and Culture Symposium?

The Atlantic Cultural Space Conference, in partnership with the New Brunswick Foundation for the Arts and Mount Allison University, will host a one-day symposium on May 23rd in the Wu Centre at Mount Allison University. Its main focus is to explore private philanthropy and its relationship to capacity-building in the arts and heritage sectors. An array of presenters from fondations, fundraising firms, government agencies and arts organizations will discuss strategic directions for ensuring the long-term continuity and growth of Atlantic Canadian cultural institutions. Conference-goers may select this symposium as an official pre-conference event with transportation provided to and from the Hotel Beauséjour in Moncton.

Nel Oudemans, a New Brunswick fine craft artist, well known across North America, passed away early in January leaving behind a body of work in testimony of her tremendous talent. In 1995 she was awarded the Kjekl and Erica Deichmann Award for excellence in craft and the prestigious Strathbutler Award. She was a Fellow and Honorary Member of the New Brunswick Arts Crafts Council and participated in major crafts fairs as well as provincial and regional exhibitions. To keep her memory alive, members of her family thought of establishing a scholarship fund through the New Brunswick Foundation for the Arts. A fund has now been established and those who are interested in contributing to this Nel Oudemans Scholarship Fund can make their donation to the New Brunswick Foundation for the Arts, c/o Denise Violette, 634 Queen Street, Suite 300, Fredericton, NB E3B 1C2.

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Workshop where Atlantic heritage representatives will discuss to facilitate introduction of a new federal heritage registry and tax incentive programs; a *Capitol Theatre Gala, "Espace Quadart Space"* where top performers and artists from all disciplines from all four Atlantic provinces will join in on stage or by on-line web interventions and finally an *Open Architectural Workshop* where four teams led by Atlantic architects, with the participation of artists, heritage and community representatives will spend an intense 72-hour visioning concepts, rationales, drawings, plans and models for the conversion of an heritage designated building into a vibrant community cultural centre.

Excellence Awards in the Arts 2002

SHIRLEY BEAR - ***Award for Excellence in community cultural development***

BRIGITTE CLAVETTE - ***Kjeld and Erica Deichmann Award for Excellence in craft***

ANTONINE MAILLET - ***Pascal Poirier Award for Excellence in French-language literary arts***

The New Brunswick Arts Board announced on February 12 the recipients of the 2002 Excellence Awards in the arts as well as the recipients of the 2002 Foundation Prizes.

The Excellence Award recognizes the outstanding contribution of certain individuals to the arts and is presented annually to four recipients in four distinct artistic disciplines. The Excellence award carries a prize of $5,000. The recipients of the Excellence Awards for 2002 are:

Pascal Poirier Award for Excellence in French-language literary arts: ANTONINE MAILLET, an Acadian author of international reputation. Her passionate pursuit of excellence in the literary arts is documented by her impressive list of publications and credits. She is also a well known playwright whose works are performed all over the world.
André Thaddée Bourque and Louise Manny Award for Excellence in music: WENDY NEILSEN, an internationally known operatic singer who has performed with such key orchestras as the New York Philharmonic, Prague Philharmonic, Dusseldorf Symphoniker and Madrid Orchestra Sinfonica.
Award for Excellence in community cultural development: SHIRLEY BEAR, is an exemplary volunteer leader in community cultural development, a dedicated feminist, activist and artist. Her work draws upon Maliseet myths, legends, and petroglyph images. She has worked extensively as a lecturer, performer, lobbyist, and curator.
Kjeld and Erica Deichmann Award for Excellence in craft: BRIGITTE CLAVETTE, since very early age, has distinguished herself as an artist and craftsperson of stature. She is recognized both nationally and internationally and is one of the few craftspeople to be named as a member of the Canadian Academy of Art.

In 2002, for the first time, the Foundation for the Arts will take part in celebrating and recognizing the efforts of individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions to New Brunswick arts during the past year. Four Foundation prizes will be awarded, starting this year. They have a prize of $3,000 except for arts philanthropy which is honorary. The recipients of the 2002 Foundation prizes are:

WENDY NEILSEN - ***André Thaddée Bourque and Louise Manny Award for Excellence in music***

Emerging Artist of the Year: JULIEN LEBLANC, a young Acadian pianist with a Masters degree in piano interpretation from the Université de Montréal. He is presently completing an Artist Diploma at the Glenn Gould Professional School of the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto.

Organization of the Arts: NEW BRUNSWICK FILM COOP, an art organization with a mandate to assist in the production, distribution and exhibition of independent, non-commercial films. In 2001 the Coop launched the first Tidal Wave Film Festival in Fredericton. Insight and altruism are two words that really symbolize the contribution made to the community by this great NB arts organization.

Municipality of the Arts: VILLE DE CARAQUET, an exceptional supporter and leader of the arts community in the preservation of heritage sites and the creation of cultural infrastructures. The first municipality in NB to adopt an official cultural policy, Caraquet offers a wide variety of assistance and services to cultural and artisitc organizations. This environment makes of Caraquet one of the top venues for the arts in NB.

Arts Philanthropy: SHEILA HUGH-MACKAY FOUNDATION, a foundation that strives to advance the public interest in the arts as well as support the growth of individuals and organizations. With over $20,000 in grants distributed annually, this organization has supported over 379 artists from across Canada since 1993.

Plans are currently being finalized for a televised broadcast of the presentations at a Gala celebration to be held in honor of the recipients to be aired on both CBC and Radio-Canada at the end of April.

Arts Grants Recipients - Competition of October 1st, 2001

As announced in mid-January 2002, the results of the most recent NBAB juried competitions are:

Creation:

Craft: Colleen Lynch, Chamcook, $2,545 *To create art pieces in metal relief juxtaposed with natural elements.*

Dance: Natalie Morin, Moncton, $7,000 *To create three dance pieces;* Celine Paquet, Moncton, $6,570 *To develop a new choreography "Lien Direct".*

Literary Arts: Wayne T. Curtis, Miramichi, $7,000 *To write "Brothers and Sisters", a novel;* Laurence A. Hutchman, Edmundston, $3,500 *For "Follow the River" – a collection of poetry.*

Music: Michel Cardin, Moncton, $7,000 *To record an album of Lute music, his tenth;* Ludmila Knezkova-Hussey, Bathurst, $7,000 *To compose a piece for performance with the Vienna Symphony Orchestra that will play in Bathurst this year;* Motion Ensemble, Fredericton, $4,900 *To commission an original musical composition from composer Richard Gibson.*

Theatre: Louise Lemieux, Moncton, $7,000 *To create Empreintes – a new theatrical presentation.*

Visual Arts: Jacques Arseneault, Moncton, $3,000 *Le dernier des paradis perdus – to create 20 new prints;* Joel Boudreau, Moncton, $7,000 *"Fusion" – to integrate bronze into his current sculptural process;* Lea Deschamps, Fredericton, $7,000 *To create a 12 screen video installation called "Palimpsestes;* Richard Flynn, Cambridge Narrows, $7,000 *To make prints from paintings by the artist;* Jane Gee, Fredericton, $7,000 *To create new work for a solo exhibition;* Yvon Gallant, Moncton, $7,000 *Quelques réflexions sur le passé- new paintings;* Suzanne Hill, Saint John, $6,580 *For a visual arts project called "High Water Mark";* Kathy Hooper, Hampton, $7,000 *To complete a body of work for an exhibition in Mexico;* Nancy King-Schofield, Moncton, $7,000 *"Man/Nature/Chaos" – to create ten large mixed media works;* Ghislaine McLaughlin, Melrose $7,000 *To create a new series of paintings entitled "Baches Folles";* Sarah Petite, Fredericton, $2,545 *To do architectural drawings as cultural artefacts.*

Emerging Artists:

Craft: Natali Caswell, Fredericton, $3,500 *For a project called "Sculptural Accessories for Home".*

Literary Arts: Patrick Toner, Saint John, $3,500 *To begin "Punishment", a novel.*

Music: Amber Bishop, Fredericton, $3,500 *To assist in a singing tour of Europe;* Dave Lanteigne, Moncton, $3,500 *To develop a program of concerts for classical guitar;* Les Muses, Moncton, $3,500 *For development of les Muses' repertoire;* Jordan Zed, Saint John, $3,500 *For a showcase performance of new material.*

Visual Arts: Carole Deveau, Moncton, $3,500 *For a printmaking project;* Julie Forgues, Moncton, $2,000 *For a photographic project entitled "Ying Chen, Immobile";* Christie Hunter, Fredericton, $3,500 *For a multimedia project using multiple craft techniques called "Hair/Works";* Joanne Poirier, Fredericton, $3,500 *For a painting project entitled "Coming Home".*

Applications were reviewed by a multidisciplinary jury composed of New Brunswick professional artists from all disciplines. A total of $154,000 was awarded to 30 professional artists from around the province.

On November 29 and 30th, 2001 the members of the jury were: Roger Moore, Fredericton (*English Literary Arts*); Martine Jacquot, Grafton, Nova Scotia (*French Literary Arts and out of province juror*); Marshall Button, Moncton (*Theatre*); Didier Maigret, Caraquet (*Film and Video*); Freeman Patterson, Long Reach (*Craft*); Jacques Martin, Edmunston (*Visual Arts*); Lee Saunders, Intervale (*Dance*); Brigitte Lavoie, Moncton (*Music*).

Aboriginal Arts:

The results of the competition for the Aboriginal Arts Program were released in early December. For this premiere, a total of 12 applications qualified for the juried competition and a total of $30,000 was awarded to these applicants:

Contemporary Craft: Julie Paul, St. Mary's First Nation, $6,000 *To explore non-traditional paintings, digital printing and various surface design techniques and to produce Wolastoqiyik imagery on fabric.*

Film and Video: Martin Sabattis, Kingsclear First Nation, $5,700 *To complete a short movie about native folklores and legends with the help from the elders from his community.*

Theatre: Pat Paul, Tobique First Nation, $4,000 *To produce a three act fictional play telling the history of the Indian residential schools across Canada and the impact on native children.*

Visual Arts: Rocky Sappier, Tobique First Nation, $4,000 *To develop and create a permanent visual display of Glooscap tales and stories, in a series of giant oils and acrylic renditions, for all to enjoy and be used as a learning tool for cross-cultural awareness sessions in the province's classrooms and museum settings;* Charlie Gaffney, Fredericton, $3,000 *To carve and produce masks out of either butternut, yellow birch or poplar.*

Culturally Specific Craft: Fran Ward Francis, Red Bank First Nation, $4,000 *To research the pottery techniques in particular the hand built method used by the Mi'kmaq people of Northeastern NB.*

Music: Kelly Brown, Fredericton, $3,300 *To create original songs that explores "relations" within the family, nation and world.*

The members of the jury were: George Paul, Red Bank, *(Music, Craft); Catherine Martin, (out-of-province juror, Literary Arts, Theatre, Film and Video)*

Christina E. Paul Joins Arts Board as Aboriginal Arts Program Officer

Christina E. Paul, Aboriginal Arts Officer, joined the NBAB team in September of 2001. She has been managing the Aboriginal Arts Program along with helping develop new initiatives at the NBAB. Christina is a Wolastiqiyik woman from the St. Mary's First Nation and has worked closely with NB First Nations and Aboriginal organizations over the past ten years. Although she has interests within the information technology industry, Christina is most happy when working in the Arts Administration field.

Some Statistics

Grants to artists by region October 1st 2001:

Moncton 34.15%,
Fredericton 29.27%,
Saint John 9.75%,
Sackville 2.44%,
Bathurst/Acadian Peninsula 4.88%,
Other regions 19.51%

Grants to artists by discipline October 1st 2001:

Craft 9.76%
Dance 4.87%,
Film and Video 2.44%,
Literary Arts 12.19%,
Music 26.82%,
Theatre 4.87%,
Visual Arts 39.05%

NBAB toll free number:
1-866-460-ARTS
(from within NB only)

Arts-By-Invitation Grants Recipients

The New Brunswick Arts Board announced in early December the results for the New Brunswick Arts-by-Invitation grants. These grants provide assistance to professional New Brunswick artists to present work at out-of-province established arts events of national or international repute. Commercial or for-profit events are not eligible.

Five applications were received for the New Brunswick Arts-by-Invitation Program and a total of $7,465 was awarded to the five recipients:

Arts-by-Invitation:
Literary Arts: Ann Thelma Brennan, Johnville, $1,877 *To accept an invitation to read from her work in Ireland*; Jacques P. Ouellet, Tracadie-Sheila, $1,209 *To receive in Paris the Prix France-Acadie for his novel "La Revanche du Pékan"*
Music: Michel Cardin, Moncton, $2,297 *To perform in Japan*; Celtitude, Moncton, $1,665 *To perform at the Festival Mémoires et Racines in Joliette, Québec*; Stacey Lynn Read, Sackville, $417 *To compete at the Grand Master Fiddling Championships in Ontario.*

The juried programs are administered by the New Brunswick Arts Board and financed through the Arts Development Trust Fund. The multidisciplinary jury met on November 3rd, 2001 and evaluated the applications according to the program criteria.
Jury members included: Wayne Curtis, Miramichi (Literary Arts- English); Melvin Gallant, Shediac (Literary Arts- French); Shari Saunders, Fredericton (Music).

Arts Builder Program

On January 30th, the New Brunswick Arts Board launched its newest program, the Arts Builder Program. This new initiative offers substantial grants to New Brunswick professional artists, arts organizations, or to groups, companies, or municipalities planning new arts projects in New Brunswick over the next three years.

The Arts Builder Program offers grants in three categories: Up to $20,000 for the creation of new works, up to $25,000 for the enhancement of project infrastructure, and up to $15,000 for audience development and marketing. Applicants may apply for funding in one, two, or all three categories for a single project.

The objectives of the Arts Builder Program are to encourage major artistic creations that raise the profile of New Brunswick as a center of excellence in the arts; to build new audiences within the province; to build audiences from outside the province; to strengthen the infrastructure for the arts in New Brunswick; to promote arts awareness and education and to promote dialogue between New Brunswick's three communities and to foster cultural exchange.

To be eligible for funding, the proposed projects must demonstrate: artistic excellence - the jury will select proposals based on their artistic merit; viability - the project must be viable within the scope of funding and the proposed timeframe identified in the program description; visibility - the project must have the likelihood of achieving a high profile and significant public diffusion and finally innovation- for arts organization, the proposed project must represent a new development in its activities, for artists, the project must reflect a new step in their career development.
Individual artists or arts organisations who are recipients of other NBAB grants for the same project are not eligible.

This year's deadlines for the program are March 15, and September 1st. Application forms and information on this program may be obtained by calling (506) 460-5888 or toll free from within NB at 1-866-460- ARTS(2787).

Upcoming Deadlines for the Arts Grants

Juried Programs	Deadlines
Arts Builders	March 15 and September 1, 2002
Aboriginal Arts	April 1 and October 1, 2002
Creation	April 1 and October 1, 2002
Documentation	April 1 and October 1, 2002
Emerging Artists	April 1 and October 1, 2002
Excellence Awards	October 1, 2002
Foundation Prizes	November 1, 2002
NB Arts-by-Invitation	no deadlines
Arts Scholarship	February 1, 2003
Artist-in-Residence	February 1, 2003
Presentation	February 1, 2003

To obtain more information on the Juried Programs, please visit us on the web or contact Program Officers, Robert Barriault and Christina E. Paul, at:
New Brunswick Arts Board, 634 QueenStreet, Suite 300, Fredericton, NB E3B 1C2

Tel.: **506-460-5888** (local and out of NB calls)
Fax: **506-460-5880**
Web: **www.artsnb.ca**
Toll free: **1-866-460-ARTS** (calls from within NB only)
E-mail: **nbabcanb@artsnb.ca**

What Grants Can Do

From Dieppe to Sanboa Institute of Ceramic Art, Jingdezhan, China

Louisa Barton Duguay

I arrived in Shanghai on June 24 where I stayed for 3 days. While there I was able to see the Shanghai Museum which offered an evolution of chinese pottery through the various dynasties including history of the Jingdezhan region.

The train to Jingdezhan takes 16 hours and if you are lucky you get a first class ticket. We were met at the train station and taken to Sanboa, a small community on the edge of Jingdezhan, a city of 1.5 million people and the centre of the porcelain industry in China. Porcelain was invented in this region more than a thousand years ago. About 60,000 people there work with porcelain everyday.

At Sanboa, I was provided with room and board, a studio space and all the porcelain I could use. It took a while to learn how to use the material, how to deal with the humidity, and to use the different tools provided.

There were three artists from the US, one from Mexico and two from Canada including myself. We visited the university, the professors, and the 4th year students off-campus site located near our residence. We saw the factories, the porcelain market, shops where they made brushes, ancient kiln sites, and many artist studios. We visited a small factory where they made pots 18' tall. These tall vases are used in the reception areas of large hotels, banks, etc.

At Sanboa, we were able to work nearly everyday. Many visitors came to see what we were doing. It was very interesting to work with other artists. There were three Chinese people living at the residence, a master potter, his apprentice and a young woman that carved porcelain. Students from the university came over frequently. We had a lot of help when we fired the wood kiln.

The work I have been doing painting colorful designs, drawing people and flowers and fish on my pots had so much in common with the way the Chinese people were working that I was able to learn so much that will be applicable to my work.

On my return I again went to Shanghai 3 days early. This was in order to meet a group of people travelling to Yixing to visit a region of China that is very famous for making teapots. While there we were able to visit a factory and the studio of Luo Xia Ping, www.XiaoPingstudio.com.

The residency was incredible opportunity for me. I met many people, saw many things and am very excited about the work that I will do this winter.
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The Arts Board congratulates Louisa Barton-Duguay, Jeremy Thompson and Lee Horus Clark for the success of their ventures.

Vicky Lentz *was welcomed back to the Arts Board at the last Board meeting in Saint John at the end of January. Mrs. Lentz had served one term on the Arts Board in earlier years. Now, as a visual artist and a teacher, she will voice concerns for the Edmundston and Grand Falls area. In the last few months she helped developed the Edmundston Cultural Policy and is already helping out the Arts Board with the organization of the 2002 Excellence in the Arts Awards Ceremony.*

Happenings...arts and culture scene

Fran Ward Francis writes: Things are pretty quiet in Indian country although with spring right around the corner discussions and planning are underway for what seems to be an annual Spring Fashion Show. The show is an opportunity for local Aboriginal designers to showcase their outfits for the general public to view, purchase or take orders. This year the Aboriginal Fashion Show will take place at Tobique on the 20th of April. Designers that took part in the previous shows will be contacted and any new designers are asked to contact Bernadine Perley at 506-454-8561 so that fashion line up can be established. Money raised at the Aboriginal Fashion Show will be donated to a fundraising effort for the National Aboriginal Day activities, June 21st.

Natural media sculptor, Randy Simon has recently published a new book, "Micmac Heritage Collection". Randy's book is about preserving Mi'kmaq legends through Native art and sculpture. The legends are written in Mi'kmaq and English. You can check out his new website at www. mic-mac.com to order online.

"History in Motion" show where Mi'kmaq cultural immersion trough the arts will focus on the youth. For more information, contact Edward Levi at 506-836-2868.

ECMA award winner George Paul with Red Ochre will be performing at the Empire Theatre in Saint John in March. They also will begin their tour in Ontario and the Eastern provinces in June.

Suzanne Hill writes: There have been positive developments in the Saint John and region cultural community since the fall, which may have been overshadowed by well-publicized difficulties. Perhaps the most "out there" of these is the growth of Sam Palmer's concept of *The Guild* - a group of people of varied age and cultural focus who interact and work to extend their interests. Mr. Palmer has rented, and with the help of guild members, cleared and painted the entire second floor of a local office building. Known as **The Deep End**, it currently offers an Open Art Gallery, Open Mic every Thursday, Saturday morning Art Classes, Video workshops, and much more. The Deep End also offers a recording service so that groups who play there leave with a CD of their live performance.

Local artists Carol Taylor and Kate Kerr, with teachers Peggy Woolsey and Kathy McCarroll, initiated the development of a gallery space at Kennebecasis Valley High School in Quispamsis. This project will see the renovation of two underused rooms into a District 6/community exhibition space with two architecturally designed galleries, lighting, and storage. The Arts coordinator for District 6, Mr. David Ripley, has invited the Queen to open the gallery when she visits New Brunswick next Fall.

There was the performance of the Vagina Monologues at the Imperial Theatre. There were several cultural events scheduled around the production such as Women in Song, workshops and seminars and an exhibition of Tea Towel Tales - participants expressing their views on VDay issues with a tea towel as a starting point.

Other positive signs - the Saint John Theatre Company subscriptions increase...opera is operative...there is a healthy punk music movement...jazz continues to grow in popularity...and of course the ECMA's cultural spinoff.

Vicky Lentz writes: Edmundston municipal council tabled a draft cultural policy for discussion last October. Here, as in various other municipalities, public expectations of the cultural policy have grown in scope and number as the municipal cultural scene itself has evolved. Mayor Jacques Martin views the adoption of a municipal cultural policy favorably, noting that the entire community would benefit. The development of the municipal policy, which began in April 1999, should culminate with the policy's adoption during a public meeting in March 2002.

Grand Falls will host, next May 1st, northwestern New Brunswick's 4th Visual Arts Symposium. The Symposium founder and director, Danielle

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From the Great Romantics Festival in Hamilton to the Spivakov Foundation Festival in Saratov, Russia

Jeremy Thompson

Both trips were very successful. The Great Romantics Festival allowed me to perform to a very knowledgeable audience, and I was fortunate enough to have my performance reviewed by Robert Dumm in Clavier Magazine. The performances in Saratov were part of a larger tour in which I performed seven times in both solo recitals and in concerto performances. There was much publicity including radio and newspapers, a 30 minutes interview on the "Culture Network" on Russian national television and a CTV interview. The assistance of the Arts Board was very much appreciated.

From Simonds, NB to Tokoname, Japan

Lee Horus Clark

For the past seven weeks I have not been on my own native soil, but Japan, the other side of the world. In a city called Tokoname, I participated in the International Workshop of Ceramic Arts. Fourteen participants, from all over the globe, came together for clay, culture and woodfiring.

A unique experience emerged in this age old culture. The Tokai Peninsula contains Tokoname, which is almost entirely composed of clay suitable for woodfiring pottery (yakimono). Thousands of years of tradition have been born in Tokoname Clay. The anagama (hillside woodfired kiln) appeared 1,000 years ago in this aria. Later spawning the noborigama used in mass industrial production of pottery from sewer pipes to everyday domestic wares. Today's production includes electric, gas, and wood, fired anagamas and various industrial means of pottery production. Factories, studios, and galleries line the narrow windy streets, harboring the ancient pottery path, with a ceramic mall on the outskirts of town. Needless to say, Tokoname is a town of great interest to those who love pottery.

In the workshop we dug and processed our own clay, as well as using various other regional types of clay: Tokoname Mountain Clay, Shigaraki, Kotodai, Porcelains, and Kanyou Clay. All these clays came from varous parts of Japan, varying in consistencies, grittines, and workability. For ten days we created with these legendary clays. We, the participants, performed back to back 48-54 hour firings. In a whirlwind of activity, we setup display for the massive "Tokoname Ceramic Festival"

Visiting world renowned potter, Shiho Kanzaki, for an afternoon, was wonderful. Kanzaki showed us his kilns, studio, and many of his woodfired pots: an inspiration to hold and experience.

Well that's the story, in short, of Japan. The generosity of the people is astounding, the homestay, and vegetarian Japanese food is amazing. A huge thanks goes out to everyone involved in the International Workshop of Ceramic Arts in Tokoname, a gargantuan thank you to the Arts Board, for including me in their "Arts-by-Invitation" grant program, it helped make this workshop a reality. It has been a valuable education in pottery, woodfiring, and culture...inspiring more woodfirings to come.

(*Continued from page 6*)
Bergeron, indicates that 15 New Brunswick artists and 15 Quebec artists will take part in various public exhibitions, during the five-day event. The goals of the symposium are to sensitize the northwestern region to the visual arts, to allow participating artists to share their professional experiences with one another, and to build distribution networks for the promotion of their artistic output.

Claude LeBouthillier writes: In the Acadian Peninsula, the fall and winter cultural scene has been continuous since the Acadian Poetry Festival in Caraquet and the Gala des Éloizes in Tracadie. Shippagan hosted La Bottine Souriante, Tracadie welcomed pianist François Cousineau, Lamèque brought in the Atelier Lyrique of the Montreal Opera, Audette Chiasson was at the Chateau Albert suppers in the Acadian Historical Village, Ludmila Knezkova-Hussey gave a piano recital in Bathurst, Paul Dwayne was in Tracadie, as was Linda Wedge. There were exhibitions by Edith Bourget, Mario Cyr, Edna Hébert, Diane Bryar, Jean-Baptiste Comeau... A new CD was launched by Jean-François Breau, and there were two book launchings in the region: Landry's "La Charlotte des battures" at La Grande Marée and Louis Haché's "Le désservant de Charnisay" at the Éditions de la Francophonie. For its part, the Théâtre Populaire d'Acadie welcomed "Sur le bord de la fenêtre, un tout petit chien en flammes", a text by Patrick Quintal produced by Théâtre du Double Signe, and also mounted a NB tour of "...puisque le monde bouge..." a co-production of the TPA and other players.

The Nepisiguit Cultural Association offered a show by the comedian Jean-Michel Anctil and a Christmas concert with Les Muses, Bélivo and Roland Gauvin.

The Baie des Chaleurs Cultural Association hosted all the Cultural Associations in a general assembly last September and handed out the Racines Awards. In October, Campbellton's Restigouche Theatre presented LEAHY, the internationally renowned celtic group of nine brothers and sisters, who were both dancers and musicians.

A multidisciplinary group of Campbellton artists mounted a superb musical comedy, based on a Mi'kmaq legend: "The Legend of the Floating Island". It was an instant hit.

Jeanne Farrah writes: From November to December an impressive number of cultural events took place in the Dieppe-Moncton region. The three highlights of the season were without any doubt:

1. The visit by German artist Nils-Udo. This visual artist creates works that have ethical relevance. His working materials are borrowed from nature, for instance the dead trees used to create commemorative monuments to the deleterious consequences of our modern ways. Nils-Udo works throughout the world. His visit here was made possible thanks to a collaboration between the GAUM (U de M Art Gallery), the Université de Moncton, the AAAPNB (Association of Professional Acadian Artists of New Brunswick) and the UdeM's Millennium Ecological Park Committee.
2. A partnership between Galerie 12 and Assumption-Life had key significance. Assumption Life agreed to cover the costs of renovations at Galerie 12 in exchange for works of art that it will install in its various offices.
3. The Dieppe-Moncton Franco-fête's fifth season attracted over 18,000 spectators to more than thirty different shows for local audiences and cultural sector buyers and representatives. Thanks to this event many artists have received official invitations and contracts from North American and European distributors and presenters, especially in the music and visual arts sectors. The Franco-fête is a cross-sectoral showcase of events from the Fureur de lire, to Art en Direct, and Coups de coeur francophone en Acadie. This season also included the third annual Étoiles de l'ARCANB awards gala (the recording artists awards of the New Brunswick association of Acadian community radio stations).

Other major cultural events occurred in the region last fall, including: the UdeM's cultural recreation programming, the Capitol Theatre's programming, the 15th edition of the FICFA (International festival of francophone cinema in Acadie), the Moncton Winter Carnival and the Provincial Cultural Development Week. Added to this cultural mix were other initiatives such as the establishment of the Maison d'édition de la Francophonie, the creation of the Réseau Atlantique de Diffusion des Arts de la Scène (RAD'Arts - the Atlantic network of performing Arts presenters) and of the Agency for Arts marketing in New Brunswick.

All these events have helped Moncton, Dieppe and Riverview carve themselves a niche as an international cultural tourism destination of choice.

Vienna Symphony Orchestra to perform in Bathurst

On June 9, at 2:00 in Bathurst, an exceptional event will occur at the K.C. Irving Regional Center during the Sixth Ludmila Knezkova-Hussey International Piano Competition, the performance of the Vienna Symphony Orchestra.

Every two years, Mrs. Knezkova-Hussey organizes an international piano competition. The competition offers extraordinary experiences to all who take part. These include: the opportunity to perform for a distinguished musical audience; to listen to other young artists; to discuss performances with jurors after the competition, and for those who go forward to the later stages, to perform a concerto with one of the best symphony orchestras in the world. This year the orchestra is from Austria.

Pianists can register in one of the two category: 17 years and under or 32 years and under. The deadline to register is March 1st. The top three performers in each category plays with the symphony orchestra in the final concert. It is Mrs. Knezkova-Hussey desire to provide this opportunity for gifted piano students to come together in challenging piano competition.

Tickets for the concert are now for sale at the cost of $65 if bought before May 1st, $75 after. Tax is included. For group rate (20 tickets and more), $55. For more information, call 1-877-452-4636 (toll free) or 506-549-3200 and visit www.ludmilaknezkovahussey. ca

A New Brunswick Arts Board Excellence Award winner, Mrs. Knezkova-Hussey is a world renowned pianist living in Bathurst, NB.

The Arts Board held its Annual Meeting in Sackville at the Marshlands Inn on September 22. The Minister of Education, Mr. Elvy Robichaud, came to Sackville to greet the Arts Board members and to applaud the work that was accomplished during the year. Following the Annual Meeting the members of Arts Board went into a recess before pursuing a regular business meeting. First row, left to right: Peter D. Smith, Suzanne Hill, Richard Hornsby, Aline Saintonge, Fran Ward Francis, Jeanne Farrah, Michel leBlanc, Bettie Arseneault. Second row, left to right: Jean-Marc Lafontaine, Claude LeBouthillier, Mark Kristmanson, Virgil Hammock, Elvy Robichaud and Christian Whalen . (Photo: Robert Barriault)

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A Reader's Point of View

Fran Ward Francis shares a thought.. If you do want to respond or to share a thought with us, make it 250 words or less.

Aboriginal Art

In Native American cultures, a properly and skillfully made object that adhered to conventions of ritual, material and style reflected the sacred nature and the harmony of the first people's lives.

Today, the determination of contemporary aboriginal artists using euro-American tools and materials to visually create a spiritual attitude, a state of being, a cultural renaissance that coincides with the reawakening of Aboriginal pride and identity is one that is truly powerful.

Aboriginal art grows from our cultural settings, voicing its origins and strengthening our people. Our ties to the land, the language and our history is one that can not be denied.

Nérée DeGrâce

by Bettie Arseneault
Filmmaker and 2nd NBAB Vice-Chairperson

If the Shippagan born visual artist, Nérée DeGrâce, closed his eyes for the last time, on January 12 at the age of 81, his paintings still keep their eyes wide open on Acadia of yesteryears.

I wish to bring to your attention a book by Pierre H. Savignac (Collection Signatures) entitled "Nérée DeGrâce" that was pubished in 1997 by editor Marcel Broquet in which some ninety paintings of the late Nérée DeGrâce are shown. These paintings inspired me in the making of the film, " De retour pour de bon". Some of Nérée's paintings accompanies narrative portion of the film.

You can get either the book or the film through the New Brunswick municipal library network.

Fran Ward Francis is passing by one of her paintings "Mi'kmaq Princess" when exhibited at the ABEC Center last January.

ARTS BOARD'S ACTIVITIES

The Arts Board held its annual meeting of 2000-2001 in September in Sackville. Board members met with the arts community and toured the arts infrastructure. A grant information session was well-attended by local artists as was the one given the day before in Moncton.

The Arts Board also has had meetings with Minister Dennis Furlong, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Cultural Human Resources Council, Canadian Conference of the arts and Heritage Canada, on a variety of issues but also to sensitize them about the goals of the Atlantic Cultural Space Conference: New Directions in the Heritage and the Arts which will take place in Moncton.

In the Fall, consultations were held in the Acadian Peninsula, Saint John, Fredericton and in Moncton for the Arts Builder Program.

In December, the Arts Board moved its offices to a new location at 634 Queen Street in Fredericton. The new space is larger and will provide better facilities for future juries and the increased activity at the Board. In January, the staff also selected works from the New Brunswick Arts Bank which are now displayed in the common areas of the office.

The Arts Board took an active role in the workgroup that oversaw the drafting of the New Brunswick Cultural Policy.

The Arts Board also met the Saint John's arts community in January during its first regular meeting for the fiscal year 2001-2002.

In February, information sessions were given for the Aboriginal Arts and regular Arts Board Programs in First Nation locations along the coast: Eel River Bar, Eel Ground, Red Bank, Buctouche, Indian Island and Big Cove.

March, April and May will be most busy with organizing the end of May conference and the Excellence Award ceremony at the Legislative Assembly on the 30th of April and the CBC/SRC televised gala at the Playhouse the night before.